

23rd, when visits were made to Wye, were no exception. For some reason, however, conditions did not quite suit *P. plumigera*; only two being seen on the 10th and none on the 23rd, although there were plenty of *P. populi*, *Oporinia fagata* Scharf. and *E. aurantiaria* about.

British Coleoptera: Corrections and Supplementary Notes, including the addition of *Axinotarsus marginalis* Lap. (Melyridae) to our list

By A. A. ALLEN, B.Sc., A.R.C.S.

I take this opportunity to bring together a number of postscripts to my papers published in the *Record* over the last few years, aimed at revising the list of our species in certain groups of beetles; and especially, to correct the chief misprints and any errors of fact therein which have since come to my notice. In referring to the individual papers I have thought it unnecessary to give the full title, as the name of the genus or group will in each case suffice for identification. They will be taken in chronological order.

I. ATOMARIA (1968, 80: 318-326)

Page 319, line 6 up, for *zetterstedtii* read *zetterstedti*. p. 320, l. 8 up, for Sjöberg read Sjöberg. p. 321, footnote, l. 3, for Herbst read Herbst. p. 322, l. 4, for 'infuscata' read 'infuscate'; l. 9, for Horton read Horion. p. 323, l. 3, for Schon. read Schön.; l. 24, for 'of the' read 'of in the'. p. 326, l. 3, for *zetterstedt* read *zetterstedti*; l. 8 up, for 'sud-' read 'süd-'; l. 7 up, for Laubbhume read Laubbäume; l. 5 up, for Sjöbery read Sjöberg.

A. rhenana Kr. (p. 230): at the time I wrote, the correctness of this name for the species there characterised had not been proved and was still open to question (cf. also p. 323 *ad fin.*). Since then, however, Mr Colin Johnson has found that our insect is without doubt Kraatz's *rhenana* (thus vindicating Fowler's usage); but that, on the other hand, Sjöberg's attribution of it to *godarti* Guil. is erroneous, the latter being a different species. My statement, therefore, that *godarti* is definitely the present one turns out to have been premature, though everything pointed to its truth when written.

A. gibbula Er. (p. 323): I mentioned, in my discussion of the species to which Sjöberg (*not* British authors) has applied this name, that its true identity was suspect and under investigation by Mr Johnson. He has lately discovered that our species is really *A. viennensis* Reitt., which name must therefore replace both *gibbula* sensu Sjöberg, Allen, and *versicolor* sensu Fowler, *nec* Er.

A. scutellaris Mots. (pp. 319-320) was British on one record only (Scillies, Blair) at the time of writing. Since then, Mr C. MacKechnie Jarvis has found that he had taken one example on Tresco, 29.v.65 (*Ent. mon. Mag.*, 1969, **105**: 69).

A. divisa Rye (p. 324): the unique type has lately been examined by Mr Johnson, who is satisfied that it is identical with *rubricollis* Bris.—as suspected but not definitely known up to now. An Irish record can be added for this (with us) very rare *Atomaria*, a specimen from Killarney, Co. Kerry, having been found in the Power collection mixed with *nigripennis* Payk.

2. CERCYON (1969, **81**: 211-216)

Page 211, l. 5 up, for 'vary' read 'very'. p. 212, l. 8-9, transpose comma after '1956' and semicolon; l. 8 up, insert full stop at end of sentence. p. 213, l. 5 up, insert dash after 'separated'. p. 215, l. 11, delete final 's' in 'characteristics'; l. 16, insert full stop at end; l. 28, for 'punctuate' read 'punctate'; l. 5 up, for Joesph read Joseph. p. 216, l. 7, delete (Sussex).

C. laminatus Shp. (pp. 211-2): the entire upper surface may be more or less pitchy with only the side margins obscurely paler. I can add no further localities; but the species has continued to occur here at m.v. light at the rate of one or two a year, and I now have virtually no doubt that pigeons' nests are the breeding-source.

C. bifenestratus Küst. (p. 213) must, after all, remain on our list, as I have since taken a specimen at Rye, Sussex, 6.viii.69 (see *Ent. mon. Mag.*, 1970, **106**: 5).

3. SCYDMAENIDAE (1969, **81**: 239-246)

Page 239, l. 26, for 'Kies' read 'Kies.' p. 240, l. 26, for 'characters' read 'characters'. p. 242, l. 15, for Paraphes read *Paraphes*. p. 243, l. 19 up, for 'mistakes' read 'mistake'. p. 244, l. 1, for *exilus* read *exilis*. p. 245, l. 4 up, for *Scydaenidae* read *Scydaenidae*.

Neuraphes helvolus Schaum (p. 242): for a recent record from the London district (Blackheath) see Allen, 1969, *Ent. mon. Mag.*, **105**: 198.

Stenichnus pusillus M. & K. (= *stotti* Donis.) (p. 243): my statement that "the *pusillus* of all our collections and literature is obviously *scutellaris*" is, I now think, too incautious and dogmatic; 'all' should be omitted and 'in general' substituted for 'obviously'. The actual position appears to be less clear-cut. It should have been pointed out that Fowler's description and key characters for *pusillus* are correct, though many of his records no doubt apply to *scutellaris*. I have a new Dorset record of the true *S. pusillus* (*Ent. mon. Mag.*, in press).

Euconnus murielae Last (p. 244): Dr A. M. Easton records a specimen taken indoors at Great Bookham, Surrey, in 1937, which is thus the earliest known capture of the species (*Ent. mon. Mag.*, 1970, **106**: 2).

4. MALACODERMATA (1969, 81: 269-273)

Page 270, l. 8, for 'inisisted' read 'insisted'; l. 9, delete final stop; l. 13 up, for 'el. read 'el. p. 271, l. 12, for 1951 read 1851; l. 16, for 'identified' read 'identified'. p. 273, l. 26, delete I.

Axinotarsus marginalis Lap. (Melyridae).—This species, new to Britain, is nearest to *A. pulicarius* F. which it much resembles, but may be readily distinguished as follows:—

Smaller, l. 2.2-3 mm. Antennae shorter; segment 5 not longer than 4. Tarsi at least towards apex metallic black; front and middle tibiae reddish or pitchy-brown towards apex at least ♂ (in ♀ often obscurely).

Male: Antennae only about as long as elytra. Upper edge of elytral apex subtruncate, (upper) sutural angles rounded right-angles seen from above, outer apical angles not at all acute; apical excavation much shallower, reflexed part projecting beyond rest and forming the lower sutural angles, shiny brown-black, of irregular twisted shape, produced upward to meet the upper angles *marginalis*.

Larger, l. 3-3.5 mm. Antennae longer; segment 5 plainly longer than 4. Tarsi in great part red-yellow; all tibiae wholly dark.

Male: Antennae much longer than elytra, or at least obviously so. Upper edge of elytral apex having the outline of an open inverted V, (upper) sutural angles very obtuse or absent and outer apical ones acute, seen from above; apical excavation very deep: lower sutural angles wanting, the (not shiny) brown reflexed part largely hidden from above inside the excavation, and having two pairs of backwardly-directed processes, the outer with spatulate, the inner with finely aciculate apex, and both pairs projecting to about the level of the outer angles *pulicarius*.

The complicated structure of the reflexed portion of the male elytral apex in these species and their allies in the Malachiini is very peculiar and remarkable, furnishing valuable specific characters analogous to those of the male genitalia in other groups.

Found by Mr David Appleton (who already has to his credit a series of highly notable captures in the New Forest area, including *Hypocoelus cariniceps* Rtt. unique as British) in two localities in South Hampshire several miles apart: a wood near Fareham, and Bere Forest. In the former place a few examples were swept from herbage or flowers bordering the wood in the summer of 1966, and on 1-2.vii.67 it was rather common on flowers of *Scabiosa succisa* in a fire-break in another part of the wood. In the second locality it was common in June-July 1970 on flowers and grass around the edge of an area that had been cleared and sprayed. Quite naturally it was taken by its captor for *A. pulicarius*, and the fact that it instantly runs down to that species in British keys renders it possible that *A. marginalis* is standing as the other species in a few of our collections; this is likeliest of any captures within the last decade or two, since *marginalis* is plainly, I think, a recent colonist with us, whilst *pulicarius* is a very local insect of south-east England which does not appear to have been taken for a good many years. It remains to be seen whether the former,

having obtained a foothold, will spread much beyond its present stations; both species extend across central and southern Europe to the Caucasus. We now possess as British all three mid-European species of *Axinotarsus*.

Ebaeus pedicularis F.—A member of an allied genus not 'officially' represented in our fauna; but there are definite records, supported moreover by actual specimens, to which the sole objection—or so it appears—is their antiquity. This species is the *Malachius productus* of Stephens (1830: 315-6; 1839: 195), concerning which Donisthorpe (1939, *Prel. List Col. Windsor Forest*: 82) writes:—"Windsor, Dr Leach' (Stephens, 1830). There are three specimens in the Stephensian collection and three in the drawer of doubtful British species in the British Museum." I have seen no other reference to the insect in our literature since Stephens, who records it also from Devonshire and Bristol, and again, it would seem, on Leach's authority. The evidence for its having occurred is certainly no weaker, but rather stronger, than for a number of other species included with reserve, or at least mentioned, by Fowler (*Col. Brit. Isl.*); and, as with some others, the omission of the present species from his standard work (accidental?) explains its subsequent neglect. In future *E. pedicularis* could with advantage be included with either the doubtful or the 'presumed extinct' species—preferably the former. It might well turn up again in the Windsor Forest area, just as did (e.g.) *Ludius ferrugineus* L. also taken there by Leach (*teste* Stephens).

A note on certain other Melyrids given as British by Stephens.—The same author includes under his genus '*Aplocnemus*' two species that deserve passing notice, as they are not otherwise known as British. *A.* (now *Trichoceble*) *floralis* Ol. is stated to have been taken at Petworth, Sussex, by Westwood (1830: 317); but in the *Manual* (1839) the species is placed in brackets as 'not rightly ascertained to be indigenous' and the Petworth record transferred to *Dasytes niger* L. (both on p. 195). As the descriptions he gives of the two beetles do not differ greatly, we may fairly conclude that the original *A. floralis* record was a case of mistaken identity.

It is otherwise, however, with the second species, *A.* (now *Divales*) *4-pustulatus* F. (the name is given as *4-punctulatus* in the earlier work), which, with another—'*Enicopus ater* F.' (now *Henicopus pilosus* Scop.)—he records as taken in Devonshire by Dr Leach. It is of interest to note that seven good pinned examples of the *Divales* are still extant among the remnants of the old 'B.M.Coll.' material at the end of the Power collection, which seem likely to be some of Leach's specimens. Nevertheless, there are two reasons—perhaps really one and the same—why it is safer to assume that the two species were ascribed to Britain through some error: viz., that both are purely southern in Europe, and that in the later work the entries for both are bracketed as doubtful. Yet it is a fact that some largely Mediterranean insects appear to be at home in at least the south-west of England!

It may be added that the *Dasytes caeruleus* F. of Stephens is not the true species of that name—which has never been found in this country, though it ought to be—but *Psilothrix cyaneus* Ol.; that the same applies to his *D. viridis* Rossi; and that his *D. serricornis* is evidently the male, and his *D. aeratus* the female, of the well-known *Dasytes aerosus* Kies.

Trichodes (p. 272): in my paper there referred to, on the British status of this genus of Cleridae, one record of *T. alvearius* F. was overlooked, namely 'Leatherhead' (Surrey) given by Stephens (1839: 198). He links it with Dorking (not far off) where Waterhouse had taken a specimen as reported in Stephens's earlier work. We can thus tentatively date the Leatherhead capture as being some time between 1830 and 1839, and the probability that *I. alvearius* was then still lingering on in that part of Surrey is rendered thereby a few degrees stronger.

Corynetes caeruleus Deg.: for a note on the habitat of this Clerid—which present certain points of interest—see Allen, *Ent. mon. Mag.*, in press.

5. OXYPODA (1970, 82: 19-26)

Page 20, l. 10 and head of para. 3, alter 'Muls.' to 'Rey'; also delete footnote and substitute: 'Species of Staphylinidae hitherto ascribed to Mulsant, or Mulsant and Rey jointly, are now deemed to have been published by Rey (*teste* G. Fagel *in litt.*)'. The appropriate changes should therefore be made in the authorship of species 2, 9 and 12, and in the synonymy of species 15 and 16, in my check-list (pp. 24-5). p. 21, head of para. 3, delete 'Muls. &'. p. 23, l. 22, transpose final stop and bracket. p. 24, l. 21 up, for 'different' read 'different'. p. 25, l. 21, delete 'as does Fowler'.

In the check-list above mentioned I elected (provisionally, cf. note 3 succeeding the list) to follow Tottenham (1949) and Kloet & Hincks (1945) over the question of the correct name for the species long known as *O. longiuscula* Er. (or Grav.) and more recently as *O. elongatula* Aubé. The choice, however, turns out to have been unfortunate! Mons. G. Fagel, of Brussels an authority on the family, has been good enough to elucidate the matter: the older name (1806) cannot stand as it is a junior homonym of *Aleochara longiuscula* Grav. (1802)—now an *Atheta* (*Liogluta*). Consequently, species no. 7 (p. 25) should read *elongatula* Aubé (1850)/=*longiuscula* (Gravenhorst, 1806, *nec* 1802).

O. rugulosa Kr.: Dr G. A. Lohse (1970, *Ent. Blatt.*, 66 (2): 66) has discovered that the species which has long passed under this name on the Continent is really another, *O. riparia* Fairm.; and from what he writes it is quite clear that the same is true of the British so-called *O. rugulosa*—one of our rarest species. Kraatz's insect of which he has seen the type, is very distinct and seems extraordinarily rare. Actually, Fowler as long ago as 1888 (*Col. Brit. Isl.*, 2: 32) recognised the identity of our

species with *riparia* Fairm. (*nec* Thoms.), but used Sharp's name for it, while querying *rugulosa* Kr. as synonymous. Species 17 of the check-list must therefore be altered to *riparia* Fairmaire 1859/= *mutata* Sharp 1871/= *rugulosa* auct., *nec* Kraatz 1856.

O. tarda Shp. (p. 24): in a paper which I have not seen (1959, *Mitt. D. ent. Ges.*, 18 (4): 60-1), Dr H. Korge has split off from *O. brachyptera* Steph. a species determined as *O. difficilis* Roub. Dr Lohse, however (*op. cit. sup.*, 67) points out that *O. difficilis* sensu Korge is a different species from Roubal's and is in fact *O. tarda* Sharp. In my notes I have tentatively classified *tarda* as a form of the evidently plastic species *brachyptera*, but must stress that this treatment (like others in the same paper) is no more than provisional. When the question has been more thoroughly sifted it may well appear that *tarda* should be restored to specific rank; but as yet—the two forms being in any case exceedingly close—I am not convinced of the need for this, and meanwhile we shall not be far wrong in adopting the more synthetic point of view. It is, moreover, quite possible that the form *tarda* has on the Continent evolved further towards full speciation than it has in Britain; there are several instances where this (or the converse) seems to have happened.

6. ORTHOPERUS (1970, 82: 112-120)

Page 112, l. 8, insert comma after 'limbs'. p. 113, l. 1, insert full stop after (1889). p. 117, l. 19 up, for *nirgescens* read *nigrescens*. p. 119, l. 13 up, for Fennoscaydian read Fennoscandian; l. 4 up, for 'seems' read 'seem'.

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Gortyna borellii Pierret (ssp *lunata* Freyer ?): a new British moth

By J. B. FISHER

I have now taken 3 specimens of this moth, the first kindly identified by Mr D. Read of the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, and the second and third by myself. The first, a female was caught at a lighted window in the autumn of 1968 and for various rather embarrassing reasons not taken to be identified until early this year. The others were taken on 25th September 1970 at an M.V. trap in the same locality. According to the Museum this is the first British record.

This *Hydraecia* is well known in Central France and Central Europe generally I think, and has the typical *Hydraecia* shape. It resembles most a giant Frosted Orange (*Gortyna flavago*), its size in fact being similar to a Large Yellow Underwing (*Noctua pronuba*). My three specimens have wing spans ranging from 50 mm to over 56 mm. The ground colour of the fore wings,